

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were pending in this application prior to this amendment and are still pending. Claims 1 and 18 are amended herein. Claims 6, 7, 11-13, 19 and 21 were previously withdrawn.

The Examiner has again rejected claims 1-5, 15, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 4,548,373 to Komura (hereinafter “Komura”). The rationale the examiner gives in making the rejection is that “. . . the phrase ‘passed the brake’ is relatively broad since it does not show the direction.” The undersigned has amended independent claims 1 and 18 so as to further clarify the “passed the brake” recitation. In particular, independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended to recite, among other things, “an arm . . . having an interior region” and “at least one service line that provides a service to the patient care equipment extending from outside the arm into the interior region of the arm passed the brake and extending away from the brake within the interior region of the arm toward an end of the arm.” Komura does not disclose or suggest any service line extending from outside an arm into an interior region of the arm passed a brake and extending away from the brake within the interior region of the arm toward an end of the arm in the manner recited in amended claims 1 and 18. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 18, along with claims 2-17 which depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and claims 19-21 which depend from claim 18, are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 8-10 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Komura in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,265,701 to Ogasawara et al.; the Examiner rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Komura in view of U.S. Pat. No. 7,197,109 to Rotondo et al.; and the Examiner rejected claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Komura in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,213,481 to Marchese et al. Claims 8-10, 14, 16 and 17 each depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and claim 20 depends from claim 18. Accordingly, each of the examiner’s obviousness rejections is rendered moot because independent claims 1 and 18 are in condition for allowance as noted above.

This Amendment is being submitted prior to two-months from the March 18, 2009 mailing date of the final Office Action. To the extent that the examiner does not allow the present application, the undersigned submits that the Amendments made herein should be entered into the record because they place the application in better condition for Appeal.

It is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If there are any questions or comments that would speed prosecution of this patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (317) 231-7341.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and that shortages in fees, if any, be charged, or any overpayment in fees credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 10-0435 with reference to attorney docket no. 7175-74602.

Respectfully submitted,

BARNES & THORNBURG LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald S. Henderson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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